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camphor

SYLLABICATION: cam phor

PRONUNCIATION: kām'fər

NOUN: An aromatic crystalline compound, C₁₀H₁₆O, obtained naturally from the wood or leaves of the camphor tree or synthesized and used as an insect repellent, in the manufacture of film, plastics, lacquers, and explosives, and in medicine chiefly in external preparations to relieve mild pain and itching.

ETYMOLOGY: Middle English *caumfre*, from Anglo-Norman, from Medieval Latin *camphora*, from Arabic *kāfūr*, possibly from Malay *kapur*; akin to Sanskrit *karpūraḥ*.

OTHER FORMS: **cam'phor a'ceous** (kām'fə-rā'shəs) —ADJECTIVE
cam phor'ic (-fôr'ík, -fôr'-) —ADJECTIVE

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